

## City of Columbus Hosts Central Ohio Children's Water Festival

In recognition of the national Drinking Water Week, the Columbus Department of Public Utilities hosted 640 fifth-grade students and teachers for the fourth annual Central Ohio Children's Water Festival today. The annual event, held at the Public Utilities Complex on Dublin Road, is designed to promote environmental awareness about our valuable water resources to elementary students through interactive displays and hands-on activities. Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman welcomed the students during the morning's Tapping Team demonstration.

**"It's an honor to teach young people about the water treatment process, from the source to the tap,"** Mayor Coleman said. **"The City of Columbus pumps an average of 140 million gallons of water to homes, schools and businesses each day, and we do it as energy efficiently as possible."**

Participating school districts included Columbus, Hilliard, Westerville, Worthington and Bexley. Educational activities focused on ground water, surface water, drinking water and water quality, both from a treatment and protection perspective.

**"The Water Festival helps to inspire the engineers, chemists and community leaders of tomorrow by showing them the enormous positive impact their work can have on the lives of others,"** said Columbus City Council Member and Public Utilities Committee Chairperson Eileen Y. Paley. **"Public Utilities' workers are on the job, every hour of every day, to protect Columbus residents by providing the safest drinking water possible."**

Partnering agencies included:

- The Franklin and Delaware Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Metro Parks
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- Ohio EPA
- Canoe Creation
- Engineering consultants: Brown and Caldwell, Burgess and Niple, Malcolm Pirnie and MWH

Residents interested in learning more about the drinking water treatment process and quality can view the current consumer confidence report at [www.utilities.columbus.gov](http://www.utilities.columbus.gov) or request a copy by calling Customer Service at 645-8276.